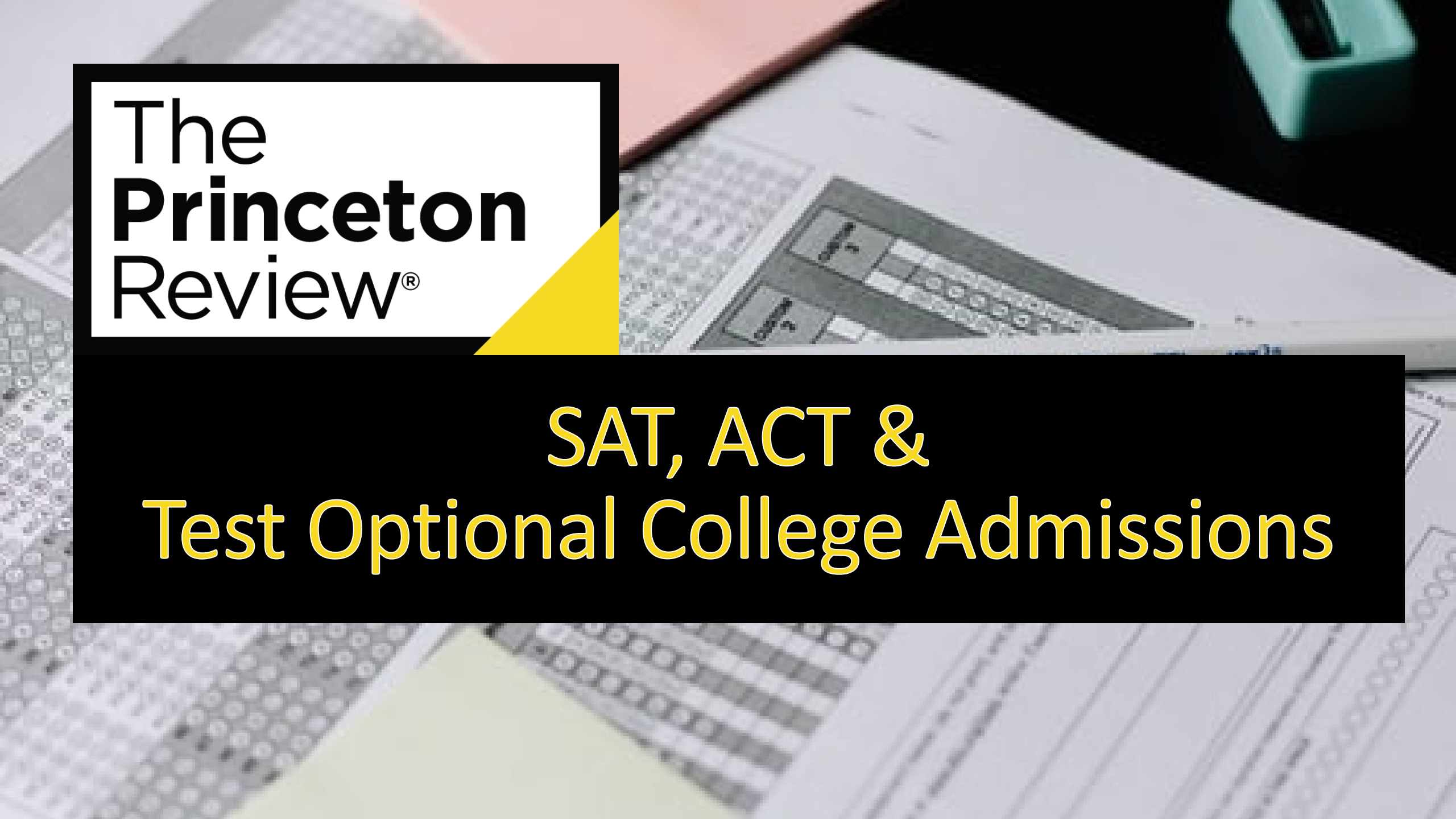
The
Princeton
Review®
SAT, ACT &
Test Optional College Admissions

Agenda

1. Truths and Misconceptions – Tests, Test Optional
2. Similarities and Differences – SAT vs. ACT
3. Improving Your Application & Standing Out

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TRUTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Top Factors for First-time Freshmen

1. Grades

2. High School Curriculum

3. Essays/Extracurriculars

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS?

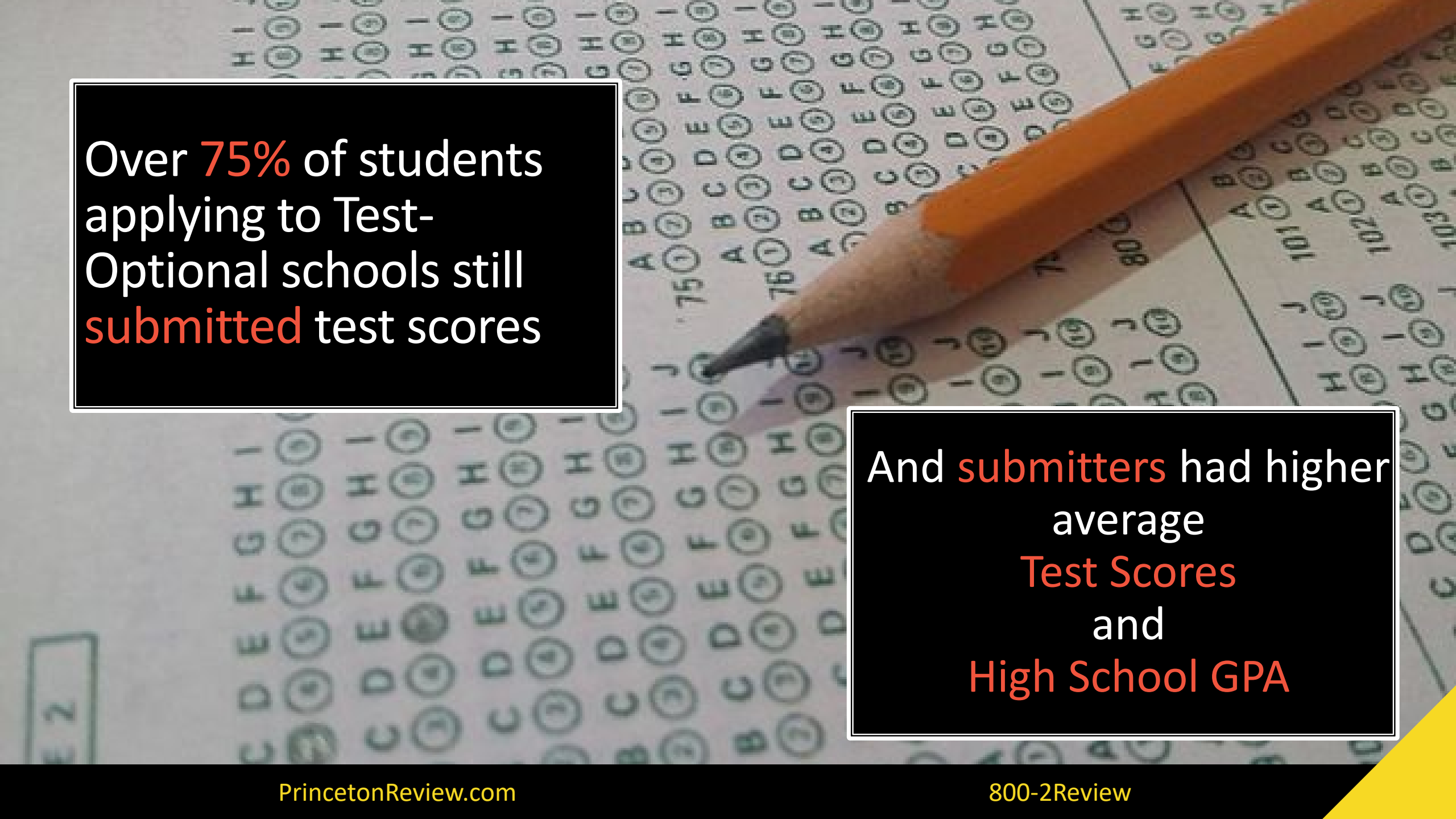
Test-optional/
Test Blind
admissions processes do not require SAT or ACT scores for admissions consideration.

Test-optional schools receive more applications and have lower admission rates.

If any school or scholarship you apply to requires SAT or ACT scores, your process is not test-optional.

STANDARDIZED TESTS IN ADMISSIONS

- Most schools still accept both the SAT and ACT
- Many scholarships are still directly tied to SAT/ACT Scores – 200+
- Selective schools view the SAT and ACT as “predictive of performance”


Over 75% of students applying to Test-Optional schools still submitted test scores
And submitters had higher average Test Scores and High School GPA

REMEMBER!

Many
merit scholarships
are directly tied
to
ACT or SAT scores.

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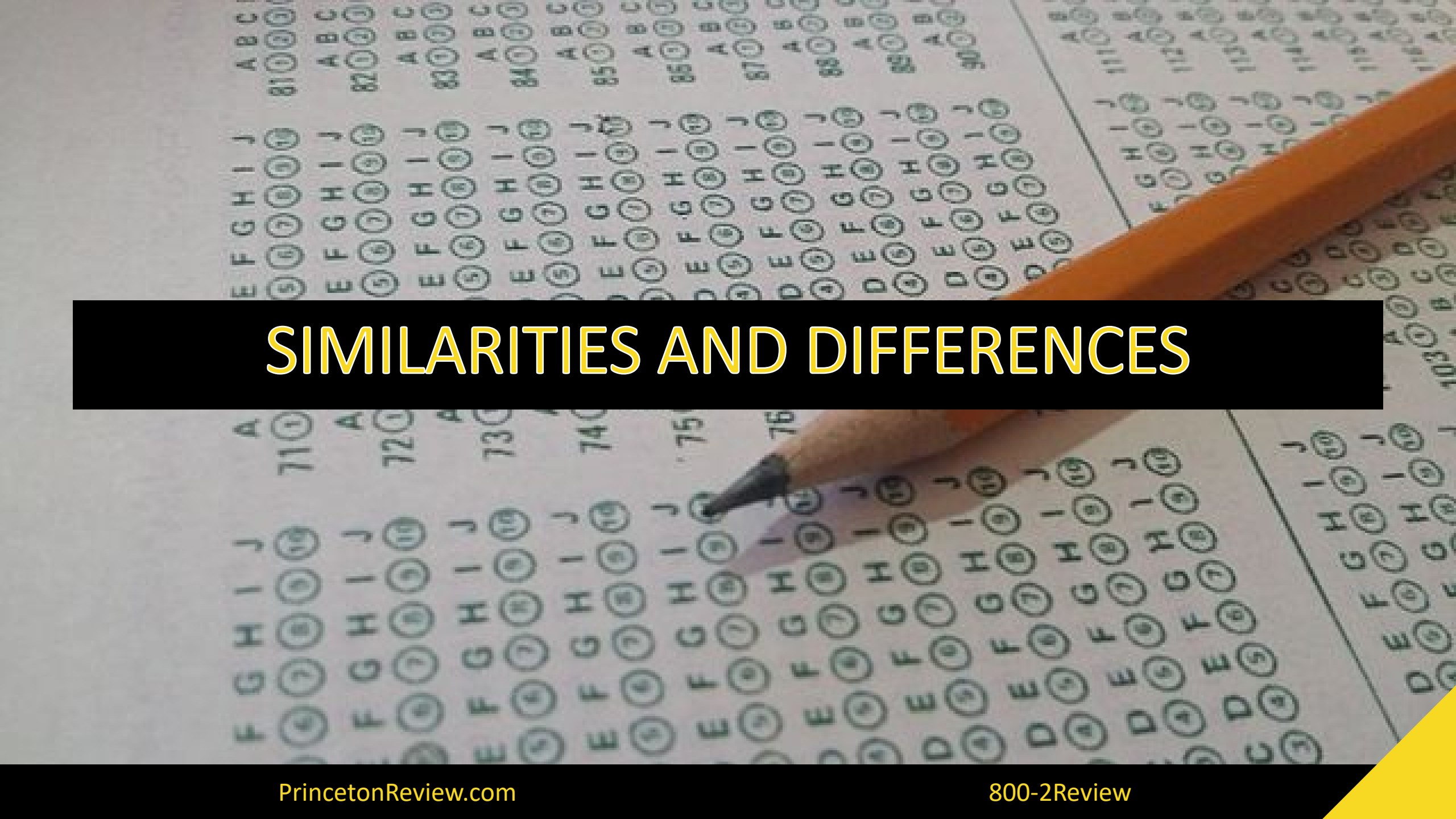


SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

SAT

vs.

ACT

- Mostly Multiple Choice
  - Math Grid-In Questions
- Reading, Writing & Language, Math
- 400-1600 Score
  - 200-800 Per Section
- 3:00 Hours
- 154 Questions

- Exclusively Multiple Choice
  - Optional Essay
- English, Math, Reading, and Science
- 1-36 Overall Score
  - 1-36 Per Section
  - 2-12 Optional Essay
- 2:55 Hours (without essay)
- 3:35 Hours (with essay)
- 215 Questions

A STREAMLINED SAT

TWO-HOUR TEST
INSTEAD OF A
THREE-HOUR TEST

SHORTER SECTIONS

FEWER QUESTIONS

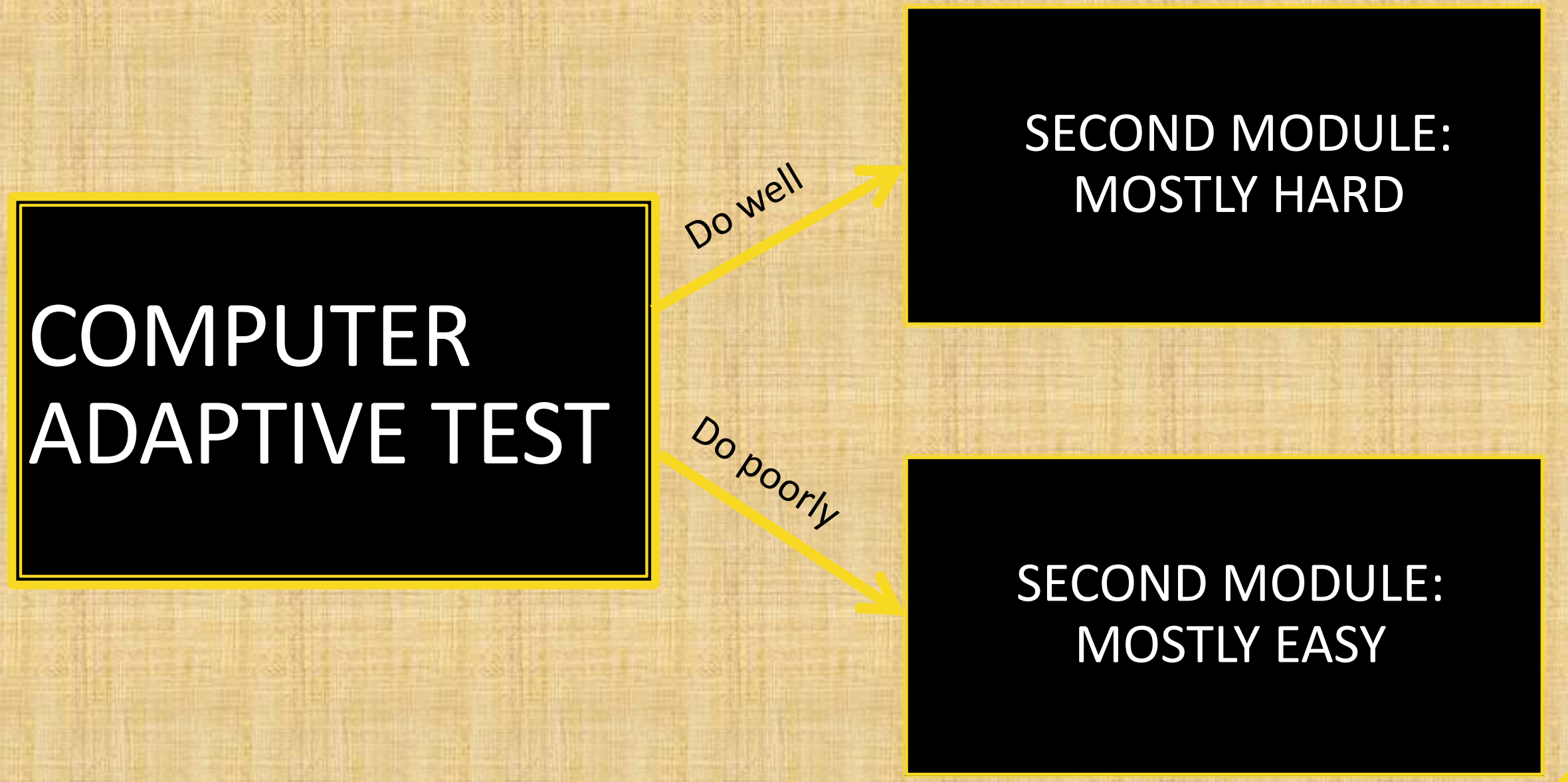
REDUCED FATIGUE

A STREAMLINED SAT

SHORTER READING PASSAGES

FEWER WORD PROBLEMS

BUILT-IN GRAPHING CALCULATOR


COMPUTER ADAPTIVE TEST
Do well
Do poorly
SECOND MODULE: MOSTLY HARD
SECOND MODULE: MOSTLY EASY

THERE IS STILL TIME

	INT'L SAT	PSAT	US SAT
SPRING 2023	DIGITAL	PAPER	PAPER
FALL 2023	DIGITAL	DIGITAL	PAPER
SPRING 2024	DIGITAL	DIGITAL	DIGITAL

- How Do You Stand Out in a Test Optional World -

YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION

High School Transcript/AP

Essays/
Personal Statement

Letters of Recommendation

Extracurricular Activities

SAT or ACT
Scores (maybe)

UC A-G Requirements

Academic Preparation

You must complete 15 A-G courses with at least 11 courses finished prior to the beginning of your last year of high school. To be competitive in the UCLA admission process, applicants should present an academic profile much stronger than any minimum UC admission requirements. See below for a listing of the A-G requirements:

- 2 years history/social science
- 4 years of college-preparatory English
- 3 years of mathematics (4 years recommended)
- 2 years of laboratory science (3 years recommended)
- 2 years of language other than English (3 years recommended)
- 1 year of visual and performing arts (if available)
- 1 year of college-preparatory elective

GPA for CA Residents in A_G is minimum 3.0

RESOURCES

College Prep/Application Timeline

Sample Timeline Based on Junior Year (if Not Taking a Gap Year)

Freshman Year
- Don't worry about anything beyond getting comfortable with High School!

OCT of 10th Grade
- Take a PSAT Practice Test if Available
- Work on Grades & Extracurriculars

Summer of 10th Grade
- Prep for SAT or ACT if you're ready and have completed Algebra II

OCT of 11th Grade
- Take the PSAT NMSQT Test
- Work on Grades & Extracurriculars
- Start researching programs and schools that you like.

FEB/MAR. of 11th Grade
- Take the SAT or ACT Official Test 1st time
- Start thinking about with AP Tests you want to do (if any)

May of 11th Grade
- Take your AP Tests
- Work on Grades & Extracurriculars
- Get your short list ready for virtual or in person college visits

Summer of 11th Grade
- Take the SAT or ACT Official Test 2nd time (if needed)
- Virtually or In Person visit some colleges on your list (ask questions) !!

12th Grade Begins

Sept/Oct. of 12th Grade
- Start Writing your Essays & Personal Statements!
- Request your LORs

Nov. of 12th Grade
- Submit your Applications to CSU/UC, Private Schools w/Early Deadlines

Dec./Jan. of 12th Grade
- Submit your FAFSA
- Submit Application for Private Schools w/Jan. Deadline

The Princeton Review Resources:

SAT/ACT Prep - SAT or ACT Self-Paced:

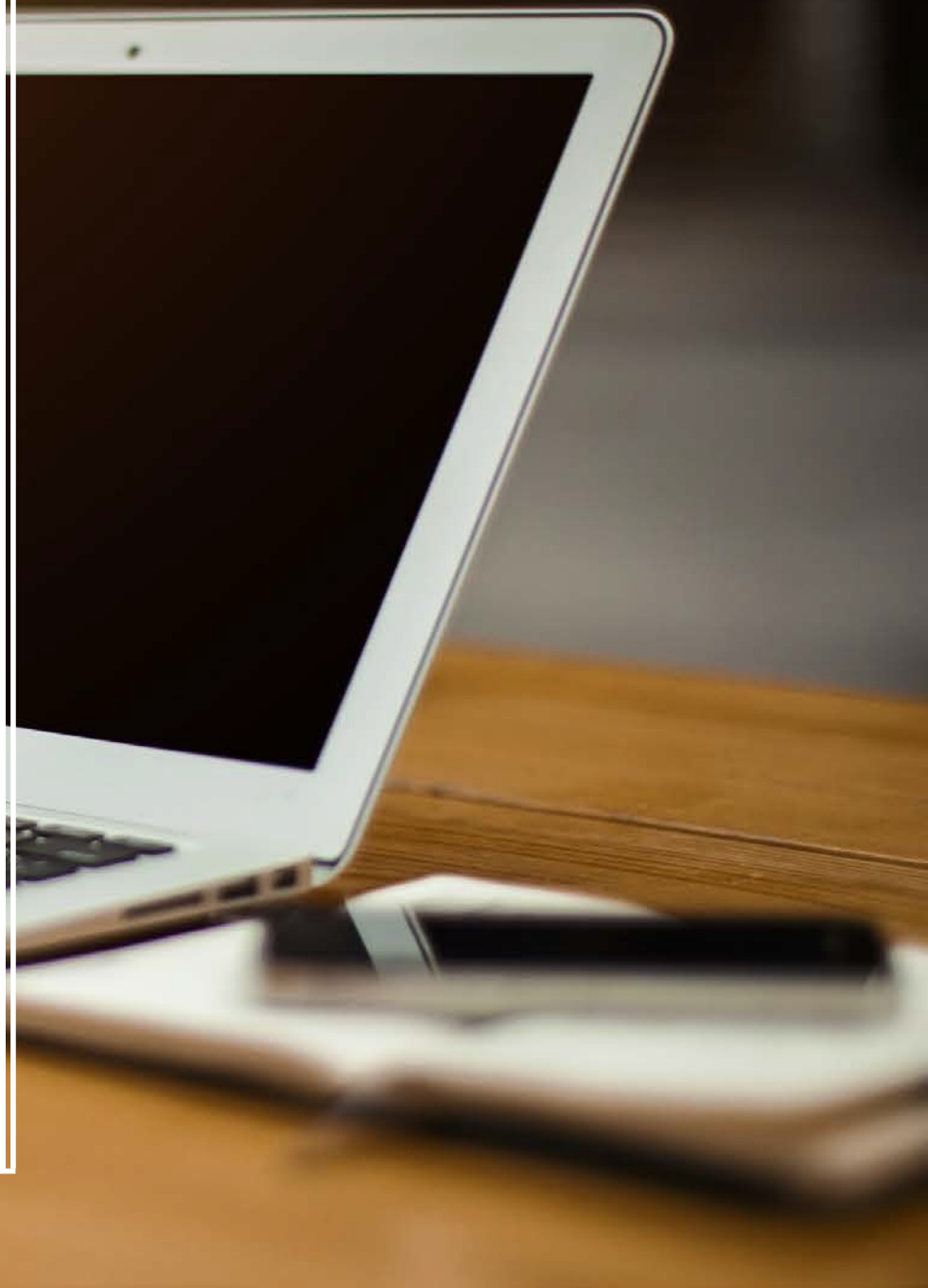
Full access to 280+ online video lessons, 377 online drills, 3,200+ online practice questions, Full Length SAT Practice tests and detailed score reports + access for 1-year from date of enrollment.

AP Test Prep - AP Cram Course:

Two class sessions (6 hours total) with an expert instructor reviewing the most tested content on the exams + a copy of Princeton Review's Cracking the AP book in your course's subject and an Online Student dashboard for scoring your practice tests. Subjects: AP World History, APUSH, AP English Lang., AP English Lit., AP US Gov., AP Calculus A/B, AP Bio, AP Chem., AP Physics 1, AP Stats, AP European History.

College Admissions Counseling:

- College List Strategy Session: One-hour, virtual meeting with a College Counselor to discuss your specific college admissions questions and strategize a college list plan.



The Princeton Review®

PREPARE

Are all the pieces in place before you apply?

Grades

Test Scores

Activities & Experiences

Leadership & Service

Letters of Recommendation

Personal Statement or PIQs